



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

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New life jackets to be given away to children under 14

Parents are invited to bring their kids to an area lake on Sunday, May 21, and have them fitted with new life jackets free of charge in exchange for their old ones.

The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Tarrant County Safe Kids Coalition and Cook Children's Medical Center, is sponsoring the life jacket exchange at three area lakes. Parents are encouraged to bring in their child's "floaties", raft, or other non-Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) or an improperly sized or worn out PFD and exchange it for a new infant, child or youth-sized PFD. The child must be present to be properly fitted.

The life jacket giveaway is part of the Life Jacket Exchange Program which started in 1998 as a way to educate the public on water safety and correct usage of PFDs.

Life jackets will be given away at three lakes in the metroplex including Grapevine, Benbrook and Lake Worth, from noon until 4 p.m. on May 21.

"We see so many children at our lakes who either don't wear life jackets or wear life jackets and other personal flotation devices that are worn out, sized wrong or totally unacceptable as life-saving equipment," said Col. James S. Weller, Fort Worth District Engineer. "In the event of an emergency, like if a child falls out of a boat, an improperly fitted life jacket can slip right over the child's head."

The life jacket exchange will take place on a first-come first-served basis while supplies last at Scott's Landing at Grapevine Lake, at the Benbrook Lake YMCA Community Center and at the Lake Worth Marina.